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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MURAKAMI, Akira

Atty. Ref.: 330-243; Confirmation No. 2265

Appl. No. 10/058,236

TC/A.U. 1731

Filed: January 29, 2002

Examiner: Lopez

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING SUBSTRATE BLANK, SUBSTRATE AND
INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM

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March 27, 2007

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

The Interview Summary mailed March 22, 2007 is correct – the examiner directed the undersigned's attention to paragraph 23 of the machine translation of the Yamamoto et al Japanese patent. This is a statement under MPEP §713.04.

Additional Comments and Observations

As indicated in the Interview Summary of March 22, 2007, the Examiner says paragraph [0023] of the reference is pertinent and that the first sentence of this passage:

"And it cooled, the pressure was cancelled after that, and optical element mold goods were taken out after press-forming termination until the temperature reduction was carried out to Tg."

(assuming Tg is glass transition temperature) describes what applicants are now claiming.

Applicants believe the quoted passage is unclear and is being incorrectly interpreted. To explain, the above quoted portion says that "the pressure was cancelled after that". The question is -- What is "that"? The "that" is preceded by "it cooled". Namely, cooling is first and pressure

cancellation comes thereafter.

Nevertheless, it appears that "press-forming" continued "until the temperature reduction was carried out to Tg." and it appears the "press-forming" stops before cooling. It is natural that "press-forming" comes first and then temperature reduction to Tg comes thereafter. However, applicants wish to point out that the above quoted portion does not say "pressing" was stopped before "the temperature reduction was carried out to Tg.". This means that the reference follows a conventional method as far as the cooling is concerned. Pressing and press-forming (or press molding) here differ since the pressing can be continued while a product is cooled as is conventionally carried out.

Applicants translate the first three lines of the above paragraph [0023] as follows:

"[0023] And, after press-forming, cooling was carried out until temperature was decreased to Tg, and thereafter, pressing pressure was removed and an optical element molded product was taken out."

The order of cooling and removal of pressure in the present invention differs from the counterpart in the reference (that is, the above translation of the first sentence of [0023]).

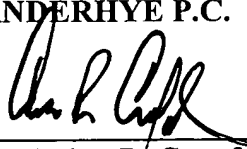
For example, the proviso in the now-pending claims says that the upper surface of the molded article is released from the upper mold member before the molded article is cooled to a temperature around or lower than the glass transition temperature.

After carefully reading the first sentence of the paragraph [0023] it will be apparent that even the first sentence of [0023] pointed out by the Examiner describes that the cooling to a glass transition temperature came first and thereafter the pressing pressure was removed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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